

7399-2 JVD 301876

IN THE CLAIMS**Please amend claims 23, 26, 27 and 35 as follows.**

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A modular building structure comprising: a corridor [service] module defining a plurality of connection openings; a plurality of inhabitable building modules each having a first end with an opening, said first end of each building module being connected to the corridor [service] module at a respective connection opening such that the opening of the building module is in communication with the connection opening of the corridor [service] module, the corridor [service] module containing apparatus for the supply and distribution of at least one mains service to the building modules, each building module being free-standing, and being connected to said supply of at least one mains service, wherein the corridor [service] module [is in the form of a corridor walkway linking the building modules] has a floor defining a walkway that links and provides access to said connection openings such that it is possible to walk from the walkway through a connection opening and said opening in said first end of said building module and into a building module, wherein each building module is an open-ended box.

24. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 23, wherein the service module has floor and ceiling cavities in which the mains service supplies are routed.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
Serial No. 09/720,895
Docket No. 7399-2
Page 4 of 20

7399-2JVD.301876

25. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 23, wherein one building module is a dedicated plant room that feeds the mains supply service to the service module.

26. (currently amended) A modular building structure comprising: a corridor [service] module defining a plurality of connection openings; a plurality of inhabitable building modules each having a first end with an opening, said first end of each building module being connected to the corridor [service] module at a respective connection opening such that the opening of the building module is in communication with the connection opening of the corridor [service] module, the corridor [service] module containing apparatus for the supply and distribution of at least one mains service to the building modules, each building module being free-standing, and being connected to said supply of at least one mains service, wherein the corridor [service] module [is in the form of a corridor walkway linking the building modules] has a floor defining a walkway that links and provides access to said connection openings such that it is possible to walk from the walkway through a connection opening and said opening in said first end of said building module and into a building module, wherein the service module is sectional so that it can be extended or shortened to provide more or less connection nodes as required.

27. (currently amended) A modular building structure comprising: a corridor [service] module defining a plurality of connection openings; a plurality of inhabitable building modules each having a first end with an opening, said first end of each building module being connected to the corridor [service] module at a respective connection opening such that the opening of the

7399-2.JVD.301876

building module is in communication with the connection opening of the corridor [service] module, the corridor [service] module containing apparatus for the supply and distribution of at least one mains service to the building modules, each building module being free-standing, and being connected to said supply of at least one mains service, wherein the corridor [service] module [is in the form of a corridor walkway linking the building modules] has a floor defining a walkway that links and provides access to said connection openings such that it is possible to walk from the walkway through a connection opening and said opening in said first end of said building module and into a building module, wherein there is provided a plurality of service modules, some modules being disposed in a direction transverse to others.

28. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 27, wherein the mains service is for waste disposal and each service module is provided with a holding tank that is connected to a lavatory or wash area of an adjacent building module.

29. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 28, wherein holding tanks of adjacent service modules are connected by a suction waste pipe.

30. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 23, wherein the mains service supply is air conditioning and each service module is fitted with a heat exchanger and has an external pump for evacuation of warm air.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
Serial No. 09/720,895
Docket No. 7399-2
Page 6 of 20

7399-2.JVD.301876

31. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 30, wherein each building module also has its own heat exchanger that is connected to the pump and heat exchanger of an adjacent service module.

32. (previously presented) A modular building structure comprising: a service module defining a plurality of connection openings, a plurality of building modules each having a first end with an opening, said first end of each building module being connected to the service module at a respective connection opening such that the opening of the building module is in communication with the connection opening of the service module, the service module containing apparatus for the supply and distribution of at least one mains service to the building modules, each building module being free-standing, and being connected to said supply of at least one mains service, wherein the service module is in the form of a corridor walkway linking the building modules, wherein each adjoining pair of building modules or service modules has apparatus for connecting adjacent modules, the apparatus comprising a housing defining apertures that extend into the structure of each module and a flexible resilient insert that is snugly received in each aperture and bridges the two modules, the insert being supported on a fixing element that is secured to each of the modules.

33. (previously presented) A modular building structure comprising: a service module defining a plurality of connection openings, a plurality of building modules each having a first end with an opening, said first end of each building module being connected to the service module at a respective connection opening such that the opening of the building module is in communication with the connection opening of the service module, the service module

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
Serial No. 09/720,895
Docket No. 7399-2
Page 7 of 20

7399-2.JVD.301876

containing apparatus for the supply and distribution of at least one mains service to the building modules, each building module being free-standing, and being connected to said supply of at least one mains service, wherein the service module is in the form of a corridor walkway linking the building modules, comprising multiple storeys, vertically adjacent modules being connected by a connecting member comprising a resilient flexible insert attached to one module and received in an aperture of the vertically adjacent module.

34. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 23, wherein the modules are connected.

35. (currently amended) A method for constructing a modular building structure, the method comprising: preparing a site on which the building structure is to be located; installing a corridor [service] module on the prepared site, the corridor [service] module defining a plurality of connection openings each for connection to a respective separate inhabitable building modules; each building module having a first end with an opening therein; installing at least one mains supply service to the corridor [service] module; connecting at least one pre-constructed building module to the corridor [service] module at a connection opening therein such that the connection opening is in communication with said opening in said first end; connecting the building module to the mains supply service of the corridor [service] module; and furnishing the corridor [service] module such that it is in the form of a corridor walkway linking the building modules and providing access to said connection openings such that it is possible to walk from the walkway through a connection opening and said opening in said first end of said building module and into a building module.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Serial No. 09/720,895

Docket No. 7399-2

Page 8 of 20

7399-2JVD.301876

36. (previously presented) A method according to claim 35, comprising further steps of filling a clearance between the module and ground.

43. (cancelled)

44. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 45, wherein the insert is received in each aperture.

45. (previously presented) A modular building structure comprising: first and second adjacent building modules, each with apertures that extend into the structure of the building modules, a first fixing member attached to said first building module and extending into its aperture and a second fixing member attached to said second building module and extending into its aperture, and a flexible resilient insert interconnecting said fixing members and bridging the building modules, wherein each module comprises an access chamber that is open to the inside of the module so as to facilitate insertion of the fixing members and flexible inserts.

46. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 45, wherein the fixing members and insert are disposed in a floor or ceiling cavities in the building modules.

47. (previously presented) A modular building structure comprising: first and second adjacent building modules, each with apertures that extend into the structure of the building modules, a first fixing member attached to said first building module and extending into its

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
Serial No. 09/720,895
Docket No. 7399-2
Page 9 of 20

7399-2.JVD.301876

aperture and a second fixing member attached to said second building module and extending into its aperture, and a flexible resilient insert interconnecting said fixing members and bridging the building modules, wherein the insert is a grommet.

48. (previously presented) A modular building structure comprising: a service module defining a plurality of connection openings, a plurality of building modules each having a first end with an opening, said first end of each building module being connected to the service module at a respective connection opening such that the opening of the building module is in communication with the connection opening of the service module, the service module containing apparatus for the supply and distribution of at least one mains service to the building modules, each building module being free-standing, and being connected to said supply of at least one mains service, wherein the service module is in the form of a corridor walkway linking the building modules, wherein the service module has floor and ceiling cavities in which the mains service supplies are routed, wherein the building modules have floor and ceiling cavities for receipt of the mains service supplies.

49. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 26, wherein the modules are connected.

50. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 26, wherein the mains service supply is air conditioning and each service module is fitted with a heat exchanger and has an external pump for evacuation of warm air.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
Serial No. 09/720,895
Docket No. 7399-2
Page 10 of 20

7399-2,JVD.301876

51. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 26, wherein the mains service is for waste disposal and each service module is provided with a holding tank that is connected to a lavatory or wash area of an adjacent building module.

52. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 26, wherein one building module is a dedicated plant room that feeds the mains supply service to the service module.

53. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 26, wherein the service module has floor and ceiling cavities in which the mains service supplies are routed.

54. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 27, wherein the modules are connected.

55. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 27, wherein the mains service supply is air conditioning and each service module is fitted with a heat exchanger and has an external pump for evacuation of warm air.

56. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 27, wherein one building module is a dedicated plant room that feeds the mains supply service to the service module.

57. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 27, wherein the service module has floor and ceiling cavities in which the mains service supplies are routed.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
Serial No. 09/720,895
Docket No. 7399-2
Page 11 of 20

7399-2.JVD.301876

58. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 32, wherein the mains service is for waste disposal and each service module is provided with a holding tank that is connected to a lavatory or wash area of an adjacent building module.

59. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 32, wherein the modules are connected.

60. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 32, wherein the mains service supply is air conditioning and each service module is fitted with a heat exchanger and has an external pump for evacuation of warm air.

61. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 32, wherein one building module is a dedicated plant room that feeds the mains supply service to the service module.

62. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 32, wherein the service module has floor and ceiling cavities in which the mains service supplies are routed.

63. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 33, wherein the modules are connected.

7399-2JVD.301876

64. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 33, wherein the mains service supply is air conditioning and each service module is fitted with a heat exchanger and has an external pump for evacuation of warm air.

65. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 33, wherein the mains service is for waste disposal and each service module is provided with a holding tank that is connected to a lavatory or wash area of an adjacent building module.

66. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 33, wherein one building module is a dedicated plant room that feeds the mains supply service to the service module.

67. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 33, wherein the service module has floor and ceiling cavities in which the mains service supplies are routed.

68. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 47, wherein the insert is received in each aperture.

69. (previously presented) A modular building structure according to claim 47, wherein the fixing members and insert are disposed in a floor or ceiling cavities in the building modules.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
Serial No. 09/720,895
Docket No. 7399-2
Page 13 of 20